any concerned senior officials; and

(d) if so, what are the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Obsolescence of some products has led to some of the works remaining idle at times.

(b) Idle labour situation in Telecom Factory, Calcutta has arisen due to rapid technological obsolescence of the important products, namely Manual T-43 Trunk Exchange equipments and lack of demand for local coin box telephones. To overcome the situation, following new items have been inducted in Telecom Factory, Calcutta during 1993-94 for optimum utilisation of infrastructure and available work force:

(i) MDF C-DOT 128/512 Port type exchanges;

(ii) Light weight 15 & 40 Meters masts;

(iii) Power Plant 100 Amps. 50 Volts·

(iv) 80/100 meters Tubular Towers;

(v) DP Boxes with IDC Module.

(c) and (d) Does not arise as technological changes are very rapid.

Opening of new post and Telegraph Offices in Assam

2534. SHRI BHADRESWAR GOHAIN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the criteria followed for opening of new posts and telegraph offices by Government;

(b) how many new posts and telegraph offices are proposed to be opened in Assam during the year 1993-94; and

(c) what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Post Offices:

The criteria followed for opening of new post offices are given in statement (See below)

Telegraph Offices:

The criteria are the demand, and the need, for Telegraph services.

(b) and (c) *Post Offices:*

It is proposed to open 25 extra departmental branch post offices and 3 departmental sub-post offices in Assam during 1993-94. The details have not been finalised.

Telegraph Offices:

No telegraph office is proposed to be opened in Assam during the year 1993-94.

Statement

Criteria/Norms fixed for opening new post offices in rural areas

The following norms for opening branch post offices effective from 1.4.1991 have been adopted:—

(i) *Population:*

(a) In Normal areas: 3000 population in a group of villages (including the PPO villages)

(b) In the Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible areas: 500 population in individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages.

(ii) *Distance:*

(a) In Normal areas: The minimum distance from the nearest existing post office will be 3 Kms.

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible areas: The distance limit will the same as

as above except that in hilly areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases where such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

(iii) *Anticipated Income*:

(a) In normal areas: The minimum anticipated revenue will be 33 1/3 per cent of cost.

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible areas: The minimum anticipated income will be 15 per cent of the cost.

Criteria/Norms fixed for opening new Post offices in Urban Areas

(i) Initially the post office would be self supporting but at the time of the first annual review it should show 5 per cent profit to be eligible for further retention.

(ii) The Minimum distance between two post offices is now raised to 1.5 Kms. in cities with a population of 20 lakhs and above and 2Kms. in other urban. No. two delivery offices however should be closer than 5 Kms. from each other. Further, a delivery post office should have a minimum of 7 post men's beats.

(iii) No extra departmental post offices will be opened in urban areas.

(iv) Heads of Circles will have powers to relax the distance condition in 10 per cent of the cases.

(v) In all the cases, approval of Ministry of Finance is obtained.

II *Project Areas/Industrial Estates and Townships/Satellite Townships/ other areas of Development Activity Plan*

(i) The scheme will cover departmental sub offices set up in project areas, new industrial estates townships statellite colonies developed in periphery of cities/urban agglomerations and other similar developments which have come up in new areas in pursuance of the plan activities of state and Central Government Deprtments and agencies.

(ii) The posts required for the opening of departmental sub offices under this scheme will be created at the approval of Secretary in the Ministry of finance (Department of Expenditure).

(iii) Only proposals in which the minimum anticipated work is 6 hours can be considered.

(iv) The permissible limits of loss will be Rs. 2400 (in normal rural areas) and Rs. 4800 (in hilly, backward and tribal areas per sub office per annum.

Theft of Telephone cable in Metro Cities of the country

2535. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Telephone cable theft gangsters are very active these days in metro-cities of the country, particularly in Delhi as a result of which the telephone cables are being stolen on a large scale;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the stolen cables and its effect on telephone development work; and

(c) what immediate measures are contemplated by Government to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As given in the Statement. (*See* below).